

The East Bay Regional Planning Unit (EBRPU) is comprised of four local Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) serving Alameda County, the City of Oakland, Contra Costa County and the City of Richmond. The Region's supervised population is roughly 15,600 individuals, with over two-thirds (68%) residing in Alameda County and about a third (32%) residing in Contra Costa County.¹ Of the supervised population, about 85% are on adult probation through the County² and 15% are on adult parole through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)³. Across the region, people of color make up a disproportionate share of the justice-involved population—African Americans represent about 40% of the region's probation population, followed by Latinos at about 23%. While the total number of people in the region with justice involvement is not readily known, by some estimates that number is as high as one out of three adults.⁴

A high density of established funders, programs and providers currently serve the East Bay's justice-involved individuals (JII). Advocacy groups, community-based organizations (CBOs) and local communities have secured significant public investments and progressive policies in partnership with local elected officials and public system leaders. Regional WDB partners have numerous innovative JII service strategies. The Prison to Employment Initiative (P2E) is an opportunity for EBRPU partners to **(1) sustain, strengthen and scale existing innovations and best practices; (2) fill gaps in the existing JII service landscape; and (3) increase coordination and collaboration amongst regional partners**. Services will target Division of Adult Parole referrals and AB109 ineligible, unsupervised and pre-release individuals. EBRPU plans to serve a total of 422 JIIs with nearly 200 enrolled in training. Approximately 40 individuals will enter apprenticeships, mainly in the construction trades, and roughly 200 individuals will secure employment in priority industry sectors.

The Region's proposed P2E program will strengthen communication and referral mechanisms between workforce and justice systems and leverage CBO partner expertise to provide personalized services to JIIs designed to impact their ability to succeed in job training and placement. Priority sectors include construction, hospitality/food service, manufacturing, transportation, warehousing and the public sector. Pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship pathways, particularly in the construction trades, are a priority. Through enhanced partnerships with second chance employers, participants will be incentivized with earn and learn opportunities coupled with personalized supportive services.

Next Steps for the EBRPU include finalization of a regional memorandum of understanding between the four WDB partners to develop common understandings and expectations for regional initiatives and align administratively, expediting contracts and fiscal processes. Regional management, MIS, and contracts and fiscal teams will meet to develop common protocols and processes. Local WDBs will develop scopes of work and contracts with CBO partner service providers. EBRPU Directors will continue to meet bi-monthly to engage the P2E initiative.

¹ Chief Probation Officers of California, (2017). California County Probation Data Dashboard. Retrieved January 21, 2019 from https://public.tableau.com/profile/oconnellresearch#!/vizhome/ChiefProbationOfficersofCaliforniaAnnualDataSurvey_0/CPOCProbationSurvey

² *Ibid*

³ California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Offender Information Services Branch (2017). Parolee Counts for Parolee Statuses (Parolee, PAL) by Parole Region, District, and Units. Retrieved January 21, 2019 from https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Offender_Information_Services_Branch/Monthly/Parole/Paroled1703.pdf

⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics, (2014). Survey of State Criminal History Information Systems. Retrieved February 1, 2019 from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bjs/grants/244563.pdf>